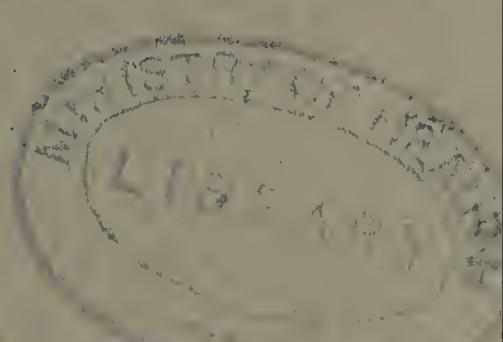


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NEW FOREST
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report
on
Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions
of the
New Forest Rural District
for the Year 1953

Submitted to the Rural District Council
by

GEORGE HABGOOD, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health to the New Forest Rural District Council

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NEW FOREST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the New Forest Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Thirtieth Annual Report on the Health, Social and Sanitary conditions of your district during the year 1953.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:—

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	94,957
Estimated mid-year Resident population	...	...	...	...	...	45,480
Estimated number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	13,160
Rateable Value 1st April, 1954	...	...	...	...	...	£364,159
Sum represented by a penny rate (for financial year ended 31st March, 1954)	...	£1,484	11.	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.		

The population, as estimated by the Registrar General, shows an increase of 390 over 1952.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

The district covers an area of 94,957 acres, approximately 148 square miles, comprising seventeen parishes and having a rising population, which has now reached 45,480. It is bounded on the East by the River Test and the Southampton Water, on the South by the Solent and the Lymington Borough, on the West by the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District Council and on the North by the Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council. The unique and predominating feature of the district is, of course, the ancient Crown Forest, a region of exceptional natural beauty and a home of ancient rights and privileges. The area within the perambulation of the Forest is some 92,000 acres, of which the larger portion lies within the boundaries of the Rural District. The principal industries in the Forest area are, naturally, forestry and agriculture, whilst in the areas outside the perambulation of the Forest, the waterside parts of the parishes of Eling, Marchwood, Dibden and Fawley, which contain the larger centres of population, are mainly industrial, including timber works, small shipbuilding yards, tar distilleries, the well known Esso Oil Refinery, and other light industries. These parishes are, therefore, mainly inhabited by industrial workers. The geological formation of the district is mainly made up of plateau gravel and sandy and marly clays.

Rainfall, Sun hours and Temperatures (as recorded at Southampton).

Month	Rain	Sun	Temperatures	
			Maximum	Minimum
January ...	.995	50.91	55	24
February ...	1.19*	79.59	59.5	21
March ...	.54	151.24	65	25
April ...	1.595	198.81	69.5	34
May ...	2.45	238.80	81	33
June ...	2.37	204.22	83	42
July ...	4.615	200.88	75	46
August ...	1.655	266.40	83	44
September ...	3.325	167.59	77	41
October ...	5.19	110.99	70	35
November ...	1.385	53.35	57	29
December ...	.79	34.62	59	30

Total Rainfall = 26.10 inches. *Also Snow.

The year was well below average for rainfall. Sunshine totalled 1,757.40 hours, a little better than that for 1952—it only 16 hours—and much better than 1951.

EXTRACTS OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births:	Male.	Female.	Total		
				1953.	1952.
Legitimate ...	379	377	756		
Illegitimate ...	24	15	39		
	403	392	795		

Birth Rate:	Male.	Female.	Total		
				1953.	1952.
Per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				17.47	17.09
Birth Rate for England and Wales ...				15.5	15.3
After application of Comparability Factor (1.07)				18.69	18.28

Still Births:	Male.	Female.	Total		
				1953.	1952.
Legitimate ...	10	5	15		
Illegitimate ...	—	1	1		
	10	6	16		

Deaths:	Male.	Female.	Total		
				1953.	1952.
Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births) ...				19.72	17.8
Rate for England and Wales ...				22.4	22.6

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	Male.	Female.	Total		
				1953.	1952.
10.92				10.92	9.38
11.4				11.4	11.3
10.8				10.8	9.28

Infant Mortality:

Male. Female. Total

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:

Legitimate ...	...	...	18	11	29
Illegitimate	...	...	3	—	3
			—	—	—
			21	11	32

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age:

1953. 1952.

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	40.2	29.83
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	26.8	27.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	38.3	28.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births			24.3	54.05

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:

Male. Female. Total

Legitimate	...	...	...	12	7	19
Illegitimate	...	...	...	3	—	3
				—	—	—
				15	7	22

Natural Increase of Population:

The births registered exceeded the deaths by 298. The corresponding increase for the preceding year was 348, and the average for 1947-1952 was 360.

The chief causes of death in order of frequency were:

1953. 1952.

(a) Diseases of the heart and circulatory system	...	...	...	201-40%	231-54%
(b) Cancer of all sites	...	...	...	90-18%	65-15%
(c) Vascular Lesions of Nervous System				44- 8%	54-15%
(d) Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	57-11%	23- 5%
(e) Tuberculosis (all forms)			...	6-1.2%	6-1.4%

Of the principal zymotic diseases, there was only one death due to Whooping Cough. There were no deaths from diarrhoea or enteritis in children under two years of age.

SUMMARY OF COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS.

Year	Population	New Forest R.D.C.			England & Wales		
		I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.
1932	31,071	58.02	15.86	12.68	65	15.3	12.0
1937	36,130	40.57	17.74	11.12	58	14.9	12.4
1942	40,010	49.73	19.09	10.89	N.A.	15.8	11.6
1947	40,070	27.80	21.53	10.50	41	20.5	12.0
1948	41,200	35.39	19.19	9.26	34	17.9	10.8
1949	41,480	29.75	18.63	10.96	32	16.7	11.7
1950	44,200	21.11	15.99	10.92	30	15.8	11.6
1951	44,900	25.86	18.08	10.91	29.6	15.5	12.5
1952	45,090	29.83	17.09	9.39	27.6	15.3	11.3
1953	45,480	40.2	17.47	10.92	26.8	15.5	11.4

N.A. ... Not available.

I.M.R.... ... Infant Mortality Rate expressed as per 1,000 live births.

B.R. ... Birth Rate expressed as per 1,000 resident population.

D.R. ... Death Rate expressed as per 1,000 resident population.

NOTES ON THE YEAR — ENGLAND AND WALES. (Taken from the Registrar General's Return)

Births:

The birth rate per 1,000 home population (as at mid-1953) was 15.5. This was 0.2 higher than that for 1952. The illegitimacy rate was 46 per 1,000 live births, or 4 per 1,000 below the average for the preceding five years.

Deaths:

The death rate was 11.4 per 1,000 home population. This was 0.1 higher than that for 1952. Infant Mortality was 26.8 per 1,000 related live births, and was the lowest ever recorded in this country. It was 0.8 per 1,000 below that for 1952, the previous lowest.

Marriages:

The Marriage Rate of 15.6 was 0.3 below that for 1952.

Population Estimates:

The estimated total population for the year was 44,290,000, an increase of 124,000 over the estimate for 1952.

Effective Reproduction Rate:

The effective reproduction rate corresponding to the births which occurred, after making allowance for continuing improvement in survivorship conditions, is provisionally assessed at 1.03, indicating that births of 1953 were 3% above those required by a per replacement.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:

- 1 Medical Officer of Health (part time).
- 1 Senior Sanitary Inspector.
- 1 Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector.
- 3 Additional Sanitary Inspectors.

A moiety of the salaries of all Officers is received under the Public Health Acts and the Sanitary Officers devote the whole of their time to their duties.

Laboratory Facilities:

For chemical examinations at the Southampton Corporation Laboratory and bacteriological examinations at the Public Health Laboratories, Winchester and Southampton.

A fee is charged by the Southampton Corporation. The Public Health Laboratories Service is directed by the Medical Research Council, for the Ministry of Health, and no fees are charged.

Ambulance Facilities:

The ambulances operating in the area are controlled from the County Council's main station at "Hillcroft", New Street, Lymington, telephone number LYMINGTON 225 (Lymington

2331 when automatic exchange operates) and all requests for transport should be made to the Officer in charge of that station.

The work in the area is shared between the main station at Lymington and the sub-stations at Totton and Fawley, with assistance from the adjoining sub-stations at Ringwood, Christchurch, New Milton and Romsey.

All types of cases are conveyed with the exception of small-pox cases for which special arrangements are made.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Nursing at Home:

Details of the General Nurses serving in the district who are able to give attention to cases at home on a Medical Certificate are:—

Boldre District	Miss M. H. Mitchell, Knapton Cottage, Pilley. Tel. Lymington 564.
Brockenhurst District...	Miss F. D. Shiers, Nurse's Cottage, Meerut Rd, Brockenhurst. Tel. 2380
Dibden, Marchwood & Hythe District	Miss R. Wess, Three Firs, Atheling Road, Hythe. Tel. Hythe 2230.
East Boldre & Beaulieu District	Miss K. Mann, Memorial Cottage, Beaulieu. Tel. Beaulieu 212.
Fawley District	Mrs. D. Clarebout, 29 Heather Rd., Fawley. Tel. Fawley 312.
Lyndhurst District	Miss D. Emery, 1 Church Cottages, Emery Down. Tel. Lyndhurst 250.
Netley Marsh District ...	Miss H. M. Davies, 1 Regis Cottage, Bartley. Tel. Cadnam 3220.
Netley Marsh District ...	Miss J. Stubbs, Dell Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Copythorne. Tel. 3247.
Sway District.....	Mrs. M. F. Lipscombe, The Bungalow, Station Road, Sway. Tel. 314.
Totton (Midwifery)	Mrs. King, Kingsmore, Testwood Lane, Totton. Tel. Totton 2191.
Totton (District Nurse & Midwife)	Miss S. P. Alloway, 22 Players Crescent, Totton. Tel. Totton 3256.

Home Help Service:

The object of the Home Help Service is to relieve anxiety by providing someone to help with the housework and care of children (if any) while the housewife is prevented from working by sickness or accident, or during confinement, or for any other persons, aged and sick, requiring help.

There is an office serving the New Forest area at The Health Centre, Rumbridge Street, Totton (Tel. Totton 3250). This office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Applications, which must be supported by a Doctor's Certificate, may also be sent to Miss M. P. Stevens, Divisional Organiser, 13 Stour Road, Christchurch.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:

(a) Speech Clinics (By appointment):

Brockenhurst	Brookley Road.
	Monday p.m. (in Term time).
Christchurch	Health Centre, Millhams Street.
	Thursday a.m. and p.m.
Lymington	Health Centre, New Street.
	Monday a.m. & p.m. Friday a.m.
Ringwood	Conway Hall, Ringwood.
	Fridays p.m.
Southampton.....	18, Archers Road.
	Wednesdays a.m. and p.m.
Totton	Health Centre, Rumbridge Street.
	Tuesday a.m. and p.m.

(b) Child Welfare Centres:

BLACKFIELD, Baptist Church Hut.....	1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Mondays. Doctor not in attendance 2nd and 4th Mondays.
BOLDRE, The Memorial Hall, Pilley	2nd Thursdays.
BROCKENHURST, New Forest Hall	1st & 3rd Tuesdays.
COPYTHORNE, Forester's Hall, Bartley	1st & 3rd Thursdays.
DIBDEN PURLIEU, Women's Institute Hall	2nd Tuesdays.
EAST BOLDRE, The Parish Hall	1st Thursdays.
EXBURY, Women's Institute Hall	2nd Thursdays.
HYTHE, St. John's Hall	4th Tuesdays.
LYNDHURST, Church Room, Forest Gardens.....	1st & 3rd Wednesdays.
MARCHWOOD, The Church Room	1st & 3rd Tuesdays.
MINSTEAD, The Minstead Hut	2nd Mondays.
SWAY, Women's Institute Hall	2nd Tuesdays.
TOTTON, Health Centre, Rumbridge Street	Fridays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
(ALL Centres commence at 2 p.m. except where otherwise stated).	

(c) Day Nurseries: NIL.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

(i) Dental Clinics: (For School and pre-School children, expectant and nursing mothers).

Held at various Schools and Centres as required. Requests
for special appointments should be sent to the Principal
School Medical Officer.

(ii) **Minor Ailments:** (For School and pre-School children).
 Totton Health Centre, Rumbridge Street.
 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 9.30 a.m.
 Lymington Health Centre, New Street.
 Every Tuesday at 9.30 a.m. (in Term time).
 (Children attend these Clinics without appointments).

(iii) **Ophthalmic:** (For School and pre-School children).
 Held at Christchurch, Ringwood, Totton and Lymington.
 Attendance only by appointment from the Principal School Medical Officer.

(iv) **Orthopaedic Clinics:**
 Southampton (Royal South Hants. Hospital, Fanshawe Street). Surgeon's and Remedial Clinic by appointment.
 Cases from the New Forest Rural District are also dealt with at Lymington Surgeon's and Remedial Clinic, held at the County Council Health Centre, "Hillcroft", New Street, Lymington.

(v) **Tuberculosis Clinics:**
Totton Chest Clinic, Bullar Street, Southampton.
 Monday, 2 p.m.-4.30 p.m..... New Cases.
 Thursday, 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.. Old Cases.
 Thursday, 2.15 p.m.-3.00 p.m.... A.P. Refills.
 Tues. & Thurs. even. 4.30-6.30 X-rays.
Christchurch, Health Centre, Millhams, Street.
 Monday, 10.0 a.m. 2 p.m. Previous Patents.
 Wednesday, 2 p.m. New Patients.
 Wednesday, 9.30 a.m. (men)... A.P. Refills at the
 Wednesday 11.0 a.m. (women).. Douglas House Sanatorium.

(vi) **Maternity Accommodation:**
 Maternity accommodation is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, and beds are provided at:—
 Hythe Cottage Hospital, Hythe.
 Fenwick Cottage Hospital, Lyndhurst.
 Hill Rise Maternity Home, Lyndhurst.
 Applications for the admission of normal cases for social reasons are made to the County Medical Officer. Arrangements for the admission of abnormal cases and those requiring institutional confinement on account of other medical conditions are made by the general practitioner obstetrician direct with the Institution concerned.

Hospitals:
 The hospitals in the district are administered by the South Western Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board through Hospital Management Committees. The Hospitals are:—
 Hythe Cottage Hospital, Hythe.
 Ashurst Hospital, Ashurst.
 Fenwick Cottage Hospital, Lyndhurst.

Infectious disease cases are admitted to the Southampton Chest Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water:

87.2% of the houses in the District have a piped water supply from the two Statutory Water Undertakings.

A further 1.3% of houses have a piped supply from private Estates, so that 88.5% of the houses in the district have a piped water supply.

The district is supplied with water by two Statutory Undertakings, The Southampton Corporation, and the West Hampshire Water Company, the District Council (water being purchased in bulk from the two Statutory Undertakings) and two private estates. The Waterworks of both Undertakings are situated outside the district. The water supplied by the Southampton Corporation is obtained from deep wells in the chalk at Timsbury and Twyford, this water being softened by means of the "Lime Process" and sterilised by "Chloramination".

The water supplied by the West Hampshire Water Company comes from two sources. The River Avon at Christchurch where it is treated by rapid and slow sand filtration followed by "Chloramination" and from the Lymington Borough Water Undertaking, the source of which is a well, the water only requiring chemical treatment.

In parts of the district outside the limits of supply of the Statutory Undertakings, i.e., Emery Down and the Parishes of Bramshaw and Minstead, the District Council have provided mains, water being purchased in bulk from the beforementioned Undertakings. As anticipated in my Report for 1952, the Bramshaw and Minstead Scheme was completed in May. The laying of 32,443 lineal yards of mains varying in size from 2in. to 6in. was involved, and the cost of the Scheme was £44,000.

In the Exbury Village, which lies outside the limits of supply of both undertakings, a piped supply in the houses is provided by the Exbury Estate. The source of supply is from a deep well some 300ft. deep, the water being pumped to a water tower, thence by gravitation to the houses and Exbury School.

The Beaulieu Village also has a piped supply in the houses provided by the Beaulieu Estate, and in addition, a supply is available from the mains of the West Hampshire Water Company. The Estate supply is gravitational, from an ancient spring known as the "Monk's Well" situated at Hill Top, Beaulieu.

With the exception of parts in the Sway Parish, the supplies from all sources were constant throughout the year. The pressure at times in parts of the Sway Parish was low, due to restrictions caused by the size of mains, which are not

sufficient to cope with the ever increasing demands. The solution to this problem is being investigated by the West Hampshire Water Company, and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and the Company hope that the Ministry will shortly allow them to carry out such new works as are necessary to ensure an adequate pressure to the area at all times.

No waters in the district were found to have any plumbo solvent action and there were no known cases of plumbism.

The following table shows the state of water supplies in the various Parishes:—

Particulars of the number of Dwelling Houses and the number supplied from Public Water Mains

Parish	No. of dwelling houses	No. of dwelling houses connected to Mains	Remarks
Lyndhurst ...	801	789	689 connected to Southampton Mains. 100 to N.F.R.D.C. Mains.
Brockenhurst ...	770	755	Southampton Corporation Mains.
Copythorne ...	710	560	Southampton Corporation Mains.
Sway	664	599	West Hants Water Company Mains.
Fawley ...	1470	1387	Southampton Corporation Mains.
East Boldre ...	319	184	West Hants Water Company Mains.
Dibden	1193	1028	Southampton Corporation Mains.
Marchwood ...	312	297	Southampton Corporation Mains.
Netley Marsh ...	594	413	Southampton Corporation Mains.
Eling	4365	4350	Southampton Corporation Mains.
Denny Lodge ...	181	30	Southampton Corporation and West Hants Water Company Mains.
Boldre	702	547	West Hants Water Company Mains.
Minstead ...	353	256*	New Forest R.D.C. Mains.
Bramshaw ...	210	86	New Forest R.D.C. Mains.
Rhinefield ...	49	29	West Hants Water Company.
Beaulieu ...	366	264†	Partly West Hants Water Company and partly Beaulieu Estate Supply.
Exbury	101	83‡	Exbury Estate Mains and Southampton Corporation Mains.

* Includes 120 Huts at Stoney Cross.

† Includes 90 connected to Beaulieu Estate Mains.

‡ Includes 17 connected to Corporation Mains.

(a) Total number of dwelling houses in the district	...	...	13,160
(b) Number of dwelling houses connected to Main supplies	...	...	11,657
(c) Estimated number of population provided with Main supply			40,216

**EXTENSION OF MAINS AND OTHER WORKS
INCIDENTAL TO WATER SUPPLIES.**

Extension of Mains:

(1). Southampton Corporation:

Parish	Length of Mains laid in lineal yards	Diameter of Mains—_inches
Eling	3,800	15in.
Marchwood	3,383 40	15in. 6in.
Dibden	3,981 2,386 1,504	15in. 12in. 4in.
Fawley	2,346	12in.
Brockenhurst	222	4in.
TOTAL	17,662	

The figures include the whole of a new Trunk Main from Redbridge Fawley laid within this district.

(II). West Hampshire Water Company:

1,967 Lineal yards of varying size mains were laid in the Parishes of Sway, Boldre and East Boldre.

(III). New Forest Rural District Council:

In addition to the Bramshaw and Minstead Scheme before-mentioned, 619 lineal yards of 3in. mains were laid in the Parish of Lyndhurst. The Council have also taken over from the Air Ministry 3,800 lineal yards of 6in. mains in the Parish of Minstead linking up with the main Scheme. The high level reservoir (referred to in last year's Report) constructed at Emery Down at the latter end of 1952, came into operation at the beginning of 1953.

Water Analyses:

(I). Southampton Corporation:

The following table shows the results of the bacteriological examinations of the water supplied in the district:—

Origin of Samples	Total number of samples during year	Number of samples showing probable number of B. Coli present in 100 ml.		
		None present	1 to 2 present	3 to 10 present
Timsbury Wells ...	78	77	1	—
Twyford Wells ...	78	78	—	—
TOTAL ...	156	155	1	—

(II). West Hampshire Water Company:

The water supplied from the Christchurch Works is examined bacteriologically daily for presumptive B. Coli and during the year all samples were found to be negative. In addition, complete chemical and bacteriological analysis is made weekly. All conformed with Classification I for Statutory Water Undertakings as prescribed by the Ministry of Health.

(III). Other Supplies:

A total of 86 samples were taken by the Department and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Southampton for bacteriological examination. The following table gives details of the results:—

Source	Number of Samples taken	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory
Private Estate Piped Supplies	39	35	4
Individual well supplies	36	14	22
Main supplies	11	11	—

As a result of formal and informal action under the Public Health Act 1936 and Water Act 1945, 12 dwelling houses were connected to a main supply. A further 54 were connected to the extensions laid in the Parishes of Netley Marsh, Copythorne, East Boldre and completed in 1951.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The second stage section, i.e., Dibden Purlieu area, of the Dibden Main Drainage Scheme was commenced during the year. A Public Inquiry into the Fawley Sewerage Scheme was held on the 2nd October, 1953. The Minister of Housing and Local Government informed the Council on 17th November that he approved of the Scheme in principle. A starting date had not been received at the end of the year.

The sewage disposal works at Bartley and Sway were enlarged and the sludge drying beds at Eling extended and improved. The Council also had under consideration at the end of the year, proposals to modernise the Brockenhurst Works and to enlarge the Eling Works.

There were no extensions of the sewers during the year.

Connections to Sewers:

A total of 132 (excluding new houses built during the year) have been connected to sewers as follows:—

Parish				Number of Houses connected
Eling	...	...	...	12
Brockenhurst	...	...	...	1
East Boldre	...	...	...	1
Hythe	...	...	...	118
TOTAL	...	...	...	132

Pail Closets:

The weekly collection and disposal of pail closet contents from the South Weirs, Brockenhurst, area was continued under contract with the Hampshire Cleansing Services.

The proposed extension of the Brockenhurst sewer to serve this area was again under consideration during the year. It is hoped the Minister of Housing and Local Government will find his way clear to sanction the Scheme, previously submitted to him, in the near future. The means of sewage disposal in the area are limited by physical factors and apart from any amenity value, cannot be considered satisfactory.

Financial Assistance—Connection to Sewers:

To facilitate the connection of house drains to the sewers, the Council's scheme of providing financial assistance to Owner continues. During the year 36 applications were received and approved.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The fortnightly collection of domestic refuse and weekly collection of trade refuse with additional collections from beaches and litter baskets as and when required, have been continued. The service is operated with the Council's own staff and plant under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector. Recruitment of labour again presented difficulties and the complement fluctuated as in previous years, necessitating the working of overtime to maintain the schedule of collection. The increase in building and the inability to employ casual labour during the summer months when the men take their annual holiday aggravates the position and means that excessive overtime has to be worked to maintain the service. Overtime work on health and economic grounds is considered undesirable, and excessive overtime to be deprecated but, being unable to employ other means, there was no other practical solution. It would appear that most Local Authorities are experiencing the same difficulties.

The complement consisted of a Foreman and 25 personnel.

Transport remains the same as previously, i.e., seven 10 cubic yard Dennis Side-loading vehicles and a 10 h.p. Austin Van for general duties. All vehicles can again be considered in good overall condition.

All refuse continues to be disposed of by the Controlled Tipping method on four sites at Marchwood, Stoney Cross, Fawley and Sway. The site at Fawley will be exhausted within the next year and negotiations are proceeding for the acquisition of another site. Sorting over of refuse by gypsies and similar types was again prevalent, causing a great deal of un-necessary work and a partial breaking down of the principle of controlled tipping. The fire danger referred to in previous years as an indirect result of this practice was the cause of a fire in the Sway pit. It is fortunate that it is situated in an isolated place and that it was possible to fence off and isolate the burning area, otherwise the cost of extinguishing would have been appreciable. It took nine months to burn out. A number of prosecutions have been taken and varying fines imposed by the Magistrates which, it is hoped, will deter the practice and eventually abolish it.

The following schedule gives particulars with regard to the operation of this Service:—

No. of premises	No. of loads	Equivalent to approx. tons	Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 pop. per day	Trade Refuse Agreements	Gallons petrol used	Mileage
13,160	3,487	10,462	12.6	89	9,066	73,332

DETAILS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE—COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL—Year ending 31st March, 1954.

Item	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wages	9,714	5	7			
Protective Clothing	33	9	7			
Tools, Implements, etc.	22	11	5			
Transport Costs (including £745 to Sinking Fund)	3,534	19	9			
Sundries—(Rents, Rates, Insurances, Maintenance of Depot, etc., including £141 3s. 9d. for installation of Petrol Tank and Pump)	418	4	3			
<i>LESS</i> Gross Income (Salvage and Trade Refuse)				13,723	10	1
				1,175	13	2
				£12,547	16	11
Net cost per 1,000 population	£275	18	0			
Net cost per ton (Collection and Disposal)	£1	3	11			
Net cost per 1,000 premises (Collection and Disposal) £1,050 0 0						

Salvage and Trade Refuse:—

The number of Trade Refuse Agreements in force is 89, an increase of 10, and the revenue derived £351, an increase of £40 over the previous year. The Scale of Charges was under revision at the end of the year and the following table shows the new charges adopted:—

Number of Bins					Approximate cost per Bin	Annual Charge £ s. d.
1	...	...	...	...	9d.	2 2 0
2	...	...	...	...	8d.	3 13 6
3	...	...	...	...	8d.	5 5 0
4	...	...	...	...	8d.	7 7 0
5	...	...	...	...	8d.	9 9 0
Over 5 and not more than 10	...				—	10 10 0
Over 10 and not more than 15	...				—	12 12 0
Over 15 and not more than 20	...				—	15 15 0
More than 20 by special agreement	...				—	—

The weight of materials salvaged and disposed of amounted to over 224 tons, giving an income of £911. 0. 0d. compared with 197 tons and a figure of £1,603 0. 0d. for the previous year. Although the quantity salvaged was increased, the income was considerably less due to a fall in market prices paid by the Mills. The main items disposed of were:—

Salvage	Tons	Cwts.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper, Books, etc.	210	19	759	5	10
Textiles	4	16	116	2	11
Metals	8	13	36	8	9
TOTALS	224	8	£911	17	6

CESSPIT EMPTYING.

The Council continues to undertake the cleansing of Cesspits in those parts of the district where Public Sewers are not provided. The work is carried out by Contract with the Hampshire Cleansing Service, and pits are cleansed at intervals of approximately, but not less than, six months. The Contract prices are as follows:—

- (1) 24/7d. for a cesspit not exceeding 1 load of 1,000 gallons.
- (2) 29/7d. for a cesspit exceeding 1 load of 1,000 gallons.
- (3) Business Premises with cesspits having a capacity of more than 2,000 gallons:—
29/7d. for the first 2,000 gallons.
24/7d. for each additional 1,000 gallons.

During the year the Contractor again invoked the "Rise and Fall" Clause, due to increases in the wages payable to his Staff, and as a result of consequent negotiations, a surcharge of 9d. per pit was agreed, to be added to the above scale of charges, with effect from 1st August, 1953.

The Contractor has carried out the work efficiently, which is again reflected in the fact that only a few minor complaints were received from householders during the year; these were

taken up with the Company and were promptly and satisfactorily dealt with.

During the year the first stage of the Hythe and Dibden Sewerage Scheme was completed, with the result that as from the 1st July, the emptying service was discontinued at one-hundred and eighty-two properties in the Hythe district.

At the end of the year, therefore, 2,514 properties were receiving the service. In effect, the number is substantially the same as at the end of the previous year; new applications being offset by the discontinuation of service in the Hythe area.

Owing to new building taking place in the unsewered areas, new applications for service will still increase, although the Council is pursuing an active policy in providing sewerage schemes.

The annual cost of the Cesspit Emptying Service to the Council was £5,758—equivalent to £2.3 per property.

Cleansing of cesspits on Council Housing Estates is carried out by the Council's own staff and plant, under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector. A 750 gallon Dennis Emptier and a crew of two are employed. Protective clothing is issued as in the case of other cleansing personnel.

During the year, 2,139 loads, equivalent to 1,604,250 gallons—or a little more than 8 loads per day—were taken out and disposed of, an out-put on a parallel with that performed under Contract. The annual cost of carrying out this service was £1,800.

SWIMMING POOLS.

As in previous years, the Swimming Pool at the Girl Guide Headquarters, "Foxlease", Lyndhurst, was again in use during the summer months.

The Pool is an outdoor static type, of concrete construction, having a capacity of approximately 45,000 gallons, and is filled from the Southampton Corporation water mains.

The agreement between the Association and the County Education Authority continued, and approximately 550 children from Bartley Secondary Modern School used the Pool in May, June and July.

Twenty-four samples were taken for bacteriological and chemical examination. The standard generally was satisfactory, having regard to the control being dependent upon the "fill and empty" system and hand chlorination. The Staff at "Foxlease" were again most helpful in carrying out the advice given on water change, chlorination dosage, cleansing and other relevant matters.

There are no other Swimming Pools in the district open to the Public.

HOUSING.

Number of Houses erected by the Council during the year:—

Beaulieu	...	...	...	...	...	22
Eling	...	...	...	...	...	21
Dibden	...	...	...	...	...	96
Sway	...	...	...	...	...	15
Lyndhurst	...	...	...	...	...	13
						—
						167
						—
Number erected during 1952			...	...		231

Number of Houses erected by Private Enterprise:—

Fawley	...	...	...	...	...	29
Dibden	...	...	...	...	...	19
Minstead	...	...	...	...	...	1
Marchwood	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sway	...	...	...	...	...	5
Eling	...	...	...	...	...	74
Copythorne	...	...	...	...	...	3
Netley Marsh	...	...	...	...	...	13
Boldre	...	...	...	...	...	10
Lyndhurst	...	...	...	...	...	2
Brockenhurst	...	...	...	...	...	6
East Boldre	...	...	...	...	...	2
Beaulieu	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bramshaw	...	...	...	...	...	7
						—
						176
						—
Number erected during 1952			...	...		70

Particulars of Houses owned by the District Council:—

Beaulieu	...	...	...	...	...	56
Boldre	...	...	...	...	...	72
Brockenhurst	...	...	...	...	...	118
Copythorne	...	...	...	...	...	30
Dibden	...	...	...	...	...	222
East Boldre	...	...	...	...	...	10
Eling	...	...	...	...	...	524
Fawley	...	...	...	...	...	222
Lyndhurst	...	...	...	...	...	45
Marchwood	...	...	...	...	...	45
Minstead	...	...	...	...	...	3
Netley Marsh	...	...	...	...	...	18
Sway	...	...	...	...	...	61
						—
Total			...	...		1426
						—

At the end of the year the number of applicants on the Council's housing list was 1,085, as against 1,200 the previous year. To this total must be added the 213 families living in huttied accommodation, giving a total of 1,298 families needing Council houses. The Council's housing policy was reviewed during the year, and it was resolved not to retain on the waiting list any person who was not permanently employed in the district unless he or his wife or their parents were resident in the district before 1st September, 1939. The resolution resulted in some 60 applicants being removed from the waiting list and a number of applications being refused.

During the year 343 new houses (Council 167—Private 176) were completed, while 43 hutments were demolished and five houses closed or demolished under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936. The supply of new houses is, therefore, barely keeping pace with the demand, and without a substantial increase in building, it is clear that the solution of the housing problem still lies a long way ahead. The change in policy towards private building appeared at the end of the year to have had little effect on reducing the number of applicants on the Council's waiting list. It is, perhaps, rather premature to attempt any assessment at this stage, and in conjunction with the further policy of promoting the building of new houses for owner/occupation, etc., as outlined in the Government White Paper—“Houses—The Next Step”—there will perhaps be a clearer indication at the end of 1954 as to the effect the new policy will have in reducing the demand for Council houses.

Number of Families in huttied accommodation at the end of the year:—

Stoney Cross Aerodrome ...	...	...	120
Setley Plain, Brockenhurst	...	...	93
		Total ...	213

The Council has continued the policy of closing these camps. During the year Veal's Farm Camp, Marchwood and Site 4 Beaulieu Aerodrome were released from requisition. The huts were demolished and the 31 families rehoused in Council houses or transferred to either Stoney Cross Aerodrome or Setley Plain, Brockenhurst. In addition, 12 huts at Stoney Cross Aerodrome which were considered unfit for further habitation were demolished.

The vital factors influencing the housing need of the district is illustrated in the following abridged table:—

Year	No. of applications on Waiting List	Houses built			Population of District	Births	Deaths
		Council	Private Enterprise	Total			
1947	977	167	28	195	39,130	863	423
1948	942	127	12	139	41,200	791	381
1949	926	176	39	215	41,800	773	455
1950	1050	162	32	194	44,200	707	483
1951	1200	174	38	212	44,900	812	492
1952	1200	231	70	301	45,090	771	432
1953	1085	167	176	343	45,480	795	497

The natural increase of population is 298 and the total increase for the year 390. The large influx into the district which took place from 1949 to 1952 as a result of industrial development, principally at Fawley, has subsided. The immigrant increase in the population was 92. The population as estimated by the Registrar General includes members of the Armed Forces stationed in the district. In this direction, approximately half the new married quarters provided at the Depot at Marchwood, comprising 50 houses, were occupied in the first half of the year and would appear, therefore, to reflect the larger proportion of the immigrant increase. The population is, for the first time since 1946, approaching stability and the complication of the housing problem from this cause has been reduced.

It can only be assumed, however, that this stability is temporary, as future industrial development is considered inevitable. The current major development at Marchwood, together with minor developments in other parts of the district, might well upset this stability in the near future, and have a material influence on the demand for Council Houses.

Unfit Houses:

The Council has continued the policy of taking action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 in appropriate cases, but while there are many houses requiring such action, representations have been made only in regard to those where it has been possible to rehouse the occupants. 27 Dwellings have been dealt with formally and 2 informally since 1949. The number dealt with during the year under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936, were:—

- (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which "Demolition Orders" were made 2
- (b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of "Demolition Orders" 2
- (c) Number of dwelling houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given under Section 11 and 13 and still in force 11
- (d) Number of dwelling houses made fit as a result of formal Notices under Section 11 1

Other Unfit Housing Accommodation:

484 Inspections were made for this purpose and the following defects remedied at the end of the year:—

Defective roofs	38
Defective floors.....	16
Dampness abated	35
Major items of disrepair and defects (including improvement of lighting and ventilation)	37
Other items of disrepair (including defective eaves gutters and down pipes, fireplaces and ceilings).....	52

MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

One Site Licence was refused and the number of sites at the end of the year was 10, with accommodation for 204 moveable dwellings. Planning action in regard to the unlicensed site referred to in last year's report had not been determined at the end of the year. A number of complaints were made against this site regarding unsatisfactory conditions and were dealt with informally. Drainage facilities were provided at one conditionally licensed site and improved in another similarly licensed.

The number of individual caravans licensed at the end of the year was 39, an increase of 8 over the previous year. Applications for licences in respect of 6 individual caravans and 1 Camping Site were refused under Planning.

There was the usual seasonal influx of campers in the Forest under permits issued by the Forestry Commission. No complaints were received against, and no insanitary conditions found from, this form of camping.

Resort to caravans for housing purpose continues. The re-housing of families living in overcrowded conditions in improperly designed and constructed caravans is continually under review. It was found possible to rehouse one family during the year and the caravan was dealt with appropriately.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

A number of complaints were received in regard to the pollution of ditches and streams or to remedy stoppages caused by neglect. A great deal of time is spent in an endeavour to abate the conditions, but in many cases physical and economic conditions preclude any permanent remedy. The annual cleansing of an extensive watercourse in the Parish of Eling was carried out in the Autumn by the Council's workmen. Other watercourses under the control of the Hampshire Rivers Board were also cleansed.

The effluents from the thirteen sewage disposal works in the district discharging into streams have been sampled by the

Hampshire Rivers Board, with the following results:—

Sewage Works	Number of Samples	Results	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Brockenhurst	...	3	—
Eling	...	2	1
Sway	...	3	1
Bartley	...	3	—
Blackfield	...	3	—
Marchwood	...	3	2
Stoney Cross	...	3	3
Lyndhurst	...	3	2
Boldre	...	1	1
Netley Marsh	...	3	1
East End	...	1	1
Hatchett	...	2	2
Bank	...	2	2
TOTALS		32	16
			16

During the year the Medical Research Council (Public Health Laboratories Service) set up a Committee to investigate the sanitary condition of bathing waters at various parts of the English Coast.

The Directors of certain Public Health Laboratories were asked to do the field work. The assistance of the Senior Sanitary Inspector was requested and with the permission of the Public Health Committee, co-operated with the Medical Director (Doctor Irene Hutchinson) of the Southampton Laboratory. The chosen sites in this district were Calshot Beach and Eling Creek. In all, 57 samples at various states of tide were taken and bacteriologically examined.

The following tables show the average probable number of faecal coli counts in 100m.l.

(a) **Calshot Beach:**—

Details	High Water	Half Tide
Number of samples	18	11
Average probable number of faecal coli in 100 ml.	583	19

(b) **Eling Creek:**—

Details	High Water	Half Tide	Low Water
Number of samples	12	12	4
Average probable number of faecal coli in 100 ml.	11	9,580	29,000

While there is no recognised bacteriological standard of purity of sea water for bathing purposes, it would appear from the results of the examination, that there is little evidence of gross contamination at Calshot.

In the case of Eling Creek, the numbers are much higher, but investigations were not completed at the end of the year.

New Forest Gypsy Compounds:

No families were re-housed from the Compounds during the year, but a hut at Stoney Cross was let to a young couple whose parents had moved there from the Compounds a year or so before. A family from Stoney Cross, which had previously lived in a Compound, was rehoused in a Council house, being the fifth family to have been "up-graded" after a few years at Stoney Cross.

The Gypsies Sub-Committee held a number of Meetings during the year and had further discussions with the Forestry Commission. The system of licensing referred to in my last report was continued. The Licences are issued by the Forestry Commission for six monthly periods and no new licences granted except to persons already within the scope of the existing licences.

There has been a considerable reduction since 1942 in the numbers in the three Compounds, as can be seen from the following figures, given by the Forestry Commission:—

1942	...	...	...	...	440
1949	...	...	...	...	278
1950	...	...	...	...	267
1951	...	...	...	...	226
1952	...	...	...	...	232
1953	...	...	...	...	161

The Council have now re-housed in huttied accommodation thirty-three families from the three Compounds, and five of these families have been upgraded to Council houses.

(1) Number of families rehoused in huttied accommodation from:—

(a) Shave Green	...	...	...	...	22
(b) Longdown	...	...	...	...	5
(c) New Park, Brockenhurst (abolished)	...	...	...	...	3
(d) Broomhill	...	...	...	...	3
					—
				Total	33
					—

(2) Number of families remaining at end July 1953:—

(a) Shave Green	...	...	14 comprising 48 persons
(b) Longdown	...	...	14 comprising 55 persons
(c) Broomhill	...	...	16 comprising 58 persons
			—
		Totals	44
			—
			161
			—

(3) Number of families up-graded from huttied accommodation to Council houses:—

(a) East End Housing Estate	...	...	...	1
(b) Hythe Housing Estate	...	...	...	1
(c) Totton Housing Estate	...	...	...	3
			Total	5

At the request of the Ministry of Health, Doctor Arnold, Medical Officer of Health, Landau, Germany, spent three days in the district in September, discussing and studying the gypsies, under a Fellowship of the World Health Organisation.

It appears that a similar problem exists in Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Germany, and that their characteristics and mode of living were similar to those in this country. A synopsis of Doctor Arnold's findings will be submitted to the World Health Organisation.

Verminous Premises:

5 Premises were found to be infested with fleas and the necessary work of disinfection was carried out.

SCHOOLS.

There are 27 Schools in the district under the control of the County Education Authority, and a number of private schools.

At Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst, Totton and Colbury the Schools have water borne sanitation connected to public sewers.

At Exbury, Hardley and South Baddesley Schools sanitation is also water borne, connected to a sewage disposal plant at Hardley and to cesspools at the other two Schools.

Bramshaw School was connected to the Water Mains during the year, so that all Schools in the district now have piped water supplies.

School meals are provided at all Schools, and in most are eaten in the classrooms. Milk supplied to the Schools is either tuberculin tested or pasteurised.

During the year the Council again approached the County Education Authority regarding the conversion of existing conservancy systems to water carriage systems. The Council were informed by the County Council that the Ministry of Education would not permit such work at the present time owing to financial restrictions, but that where Schools could be readily connected to a main sewer, schemes would be prepared for the connection of the Offices as soon as possible. The greater number of the Schools concerned are not likely to have main sewerage schemes available in the foreseeable future, and

such policy would seemingly contradict Section 40(2) of the Standards for School Premises Regulations 1951, made under the Education Act, 1944, which provides that — “where a supply of water under pressure is available (all Schools in question are so provided) but no public sewers available, Water Closets shall be provided and the sewage therefrom, together with drainage, shall be discharged either into a cesspool or into a treatment plant”.

In regard to the provision of washing facilities, progress has been made during the year as will be seen from the list of improvements carried out. The importance of such facilities cannot be too strongly stressed.

In this direction, I would refer to my last year's report on the outbreak of Sonne Dysentery, a disease mainly of children, which is common in Schools and other Institutions. It is unfortunate that inadequate washing facilities should increase the difficulty of teaching children hygiene, upon which freedom from spread of this infection in the community mostly depends. It is therefore encouraging to note some progress to this end and it is to be hoped that it will not be long before all the Schools are brought up to the standards laid down under the Education Act, 1944, both in regard to these facilities and the provision of water borne sanitation.

Improvements carried out during the year were as follows:

BRAMSHAW County ...	Connected to Main Water Supply.
MINSTEAD C. of E. ...	Two wash-hand basins provided and drainage connected to existing cesspool.
MARCHWOOD C. of E.	Four wash-hand basins provided and drainage connected to existing cesspool.
SWAY C. of E.	New kitchen constructed.
BOLDRE C. of E.	Three wash-hand basins provided and drainage connected to cesspool.
SOUTH BADDESLEY C. of E.	One additional wash-hand basin provided.
BEAULIEU County	Conservancy system converted to water carriage. Total accommodation—8 water closets and urinal, 8 wash-hand basins.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The rat and mouse destruction service commenced in 1944 continued to operate throughout the year. The service gives free advice and destruction of rats and mice on private premises. A charge, based on the Rateable Value is made for work at Business Premises. A Rodent Officer and one Operative are employed full time.

“Warfarin”, the new synthetic rodenticide, was the poison of choice during the last six months of the year. One of the great advantages of “Warfarin” is its indetectability by rodents, thereby eliminating the necessity for pre-baiting to overcome the natural defence of “poison prejudice”. Experience has also shown that the use of this material generally achieves the complete elimination of rodent colonies, leaving no residual breeding stock to set up a re-infestation.

The most expensive item in rodent control practice is the cost of labour, but it has been found that although “Warfarin” is more expensive than other well known poisons, the economy in labour time is considerable.

It will be seen from the table that the use of this poison has enabled the number of visits made for survey purposes to be increased considerably and the number of visits for disinfection purposes decreased, thus a wider and more effective control of the rat and mouse population in the district is possible.

During the year a 10% test baiting treatment of the sewers at Eling, Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst was carried out. All sewers were found to be free from infestation.

Refuse Disposal Sites, Sewage Disposal Works and other Council property was inspected periodically and found generally to be free from infestation.

Details of Work:

		1953	1952
Number of complaints received ...	...	218	250
Number of infestations found ...	...	429	346
Number of infestations dealt with ...	...	597	596

Number of visits made for survey work:—

(a) Dwelling houses ...	...	...	176	30
(b) Business premises ...	...	...	53	—
(c) Agricultural premises ...	...	...	54	—
(d) Local Authority premises ...	...	...	15	9

Number of visits for disinfection:—

(a) Dwelling houses ...	...	...	1168	2208
(b) Business premises ...	...	...	204	175
(c) Agricultural premises ...	...	...	16	—
(d) Local Authority premises ...	...	...	31	45

FOOD AND DRUGS.

There are 419 food premises in the district, made up as follows:—

Butchers shops	27
Grocers shops	85
Green Grocers shops	27
Bakers (Bread and Cakes)	13

Confectioners shops	14
Dairies.....	15
General Stores	55
Hotels	39
Cafes	42
Public Houses	65
Fish shops (wet).....	9
Fish and Chip shops	10
Sugar (wholesale)	1
Canteens	4
Clubs	12
 TOTAL.....	 418

336 Inspections were made during the year and the following work completed:—

New impervious floor covering	2
Dirty floors cleansed	5
Defective floors repaired	1
Dirty walls cleansed and redecorated	23
Defective walls repaired	2
Dirty ceilings cleansed, repaired and redecorated.....	17
Dirty window frames, doors, etc., redecorated	4
Food room fittings cleansed, repaired and/or renewed...	7
New water heaters provided and fixed	5
Dirty yard paving cleansed	2
Defective yard paving renewed	1
Dirty passages cleansed, repaired and redecorated	1
Offensive accumulations removed	2
Additional sanitary accommodation provided	1
Improved drainage and sanitary accommodation	1
Dirty sanitary accommodation cleansed and redecorated	2
Buildings rat proofed	1
Structural improvements to existing buildings.....	2
Miscellaneous	7

Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938:

20 premises are registered for the manufacture and preparation of sausages, sausage rolls, pork pies, pressed, pickled and cooked meats. 18 are registered for the manufacture of sausages and the pressing and pickling of meats, 1 for the preservation of hams, and 1 for manufacture and preparation of sausages, sausage rolls, pork pies and pressed meats. 83 Inspections were made and no statutory action was found necessary during the year.

Byelaws under Section 15, Food and Drugs Act, 1938:—

It was not necessary to take any formal action under the above Byelaws. No complaints were received and any errors noticed during routine inspections were quickly rectified. No

alterations have been made to the Byelaws, and I am still of the opinion that the use of second-hand newspapers, etc., for the wrapping of unprotected food should be prohibited.

Clean Food Campaign:

No organised Clean Food Campaigns have been held. It is the practice of the Department to give individual help and instruction during routine visits. The contact is more personal and private and is appreciated by everyone concerned.

Ice Cream:

122 Premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, an increase of 14 over the number in the register last year. Four premises are registered for the purposes of manufacture or sale, although as in previous years, only one establishment is actually manufacturing ice-cream.

During the year 255 inspections (1952=119) were made and 239 samples (1952=213) of ice-cream and 26 samples of ice lollies were taken and submitted for examination by the methylene blue reduction test as recommended by the Ministry of Health. The samples were graded as follows:—

	Ice Cream.	Ice Lollies.
Grade I (very satisfactory)	220	26
Grade II (satisfactory)	14	—
Grade III (unsatisfactory)	2	—
Grade IV (very unsatisfactory)	3	—

The 5 samples placed within Grades III and IV (approximately 1.9%) were obtained from two vendors both selling ice-cream manufactured outside the district; 1 Grade III and the 3 in Grade IV were taken from a van situated on the foreshore. The reason for the low grading was found to be inefficient refrigeration ("dry-ice"), and after attention to this matter, subsequent samples were satisfactory.

A copy of the analyst's report on each sample was sent to the manufacturer and vendor, and in cases where grades III and IV were indicated in ice-cream manufactured outside the district, copies of the report were sent to the Local Authorities concerned.

The only firm manufacturing ice-cream within the district continued to give satisfaction and out of the 93 samples taken from this establishment, 89 were placed in Grade I and 4 in Grade II.

All ice-cream sold in the district is heat treated and very rarely retailed above 28° F. Efforts have been continued towards the elimination of the sale of "bulk" ice-cream and at the end of the year only 6 (4 less than in 1952) of the 122 premises registered were selling by this means. There was also a gratifying reduction in the number of samples falling within Grades III and IV—1.9% as against 9.4% in 1952.

However, while it can be said that 98.1% of ice-cream sampled in the district is bacteriologically satisfactory, danger still exists in this very popular item of everyday diet being a potential vehicle of infectious disease, and inspite of such improvement, may at any time become intensified if control is eased.

The Food Standards (Ice-Cream Order) 1953 re-enacts the Food Standards (Ice-Cream) Order 1951, restoring the higher standard for ice-cream (in relation to the minimum quantity of fat and milk solids other than fat) in operation before the reduction made in July 1952 by the Food Standards (Ice-Cream) (Amendment) Order 1952. The Minister of Food has not introduced a bacteriological standard for ice lollies, but the 26 samples taken all satisfied the methylene blue test Grade I.

Licensed Premises:

No complaints were received during the year. Accommodation has been generally improved, both inside and outside the "house".

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS

Number of Inspections.....103

The Defence Regulations prohibiting the use of Private Slaughter-houses were still in force and the 12 registered and 5 licensed slaughter-houses remained closed throughout the year.

Another old friend has been honourably discharged—Memo 62/Foods—the standard code of practice for the past thirty years for meat inspectors when judging the fitness of animals slaughtered for human consumption has been superseded by the new Memo 3/Meat, issued by the Ministry of Food. The new Memo is the outcome of recommendations made by a Government Committee based very largely on Appendix II of the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Meat Inspection.

The following food stuffs from shops, stalls and vehicles were found to be unfit for human consumption:—

654 lbs. Home killed Beef.....	Bone taint.
988 lbs. Imported Beef	Bone taint.
16 lbs. Home killed Beef.....	Internal bruising.
1 Ox Head.....	Decomposition.
30 lbs. Home killed Mutton	Decomposition.
4 lbs. Imported Mutton	Caseous lymphadenitis.
54 lbs. Imported frozen sheep Livers	Decomposition.
692 lbs. Home killed Pork.....	Decomposition.
15 Imported Rabbits.....	Decomposition.
7 lbs. Bacon.....	Decomposition.
26 lbs. Cheese	Excessive mould.
49 tins Meat Products (544 lbs.).....	Decomposition.

61 tins	Fruit	.....	Decomposition.
20 tins	Vegetables	.....	Decomposition.
11 tins	Milk	.....	Decomposition.
2 tins	Soup	.....	Decomposition.
5 tins	Jam	.....	Decomposition.
1 tin	Fish	.....	Decomposition.
1 tin	Fish Paste	.....	Decomposition.
132	Small blocks of Ice-Cream	.....	Liquifaction.
52	Choc-Bars Ice-Cream	.....	Liquifaction.
25	Cups Ice-Cream	.....	Liquifaction.
13	Large blocks Ice-Cream	.....	Liquifaction.

All condemned foodstuffs suitable for animal feeding, other than that required to be returned to the wholesaler or dealt with by the Ministry of Food were collected and disposed of for that purpose at Public Institutions. Foodstuffs not suitable for animal feeding were burned or buried.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938:

The following qualitative samples were taken during the year:—

Article.	Genuine.	Unsatisfactory.
Butter and other fats	...	8
Drugs	...	5
Milk	...	147
Sausage & other meat products		7
Spirits	...	10
Other foods	...	21
TOTAL	198	

The 147 samples of Milk proved to contain an average of 3.95% Fat and 8.81% Non-Fatty Solids.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Details of registrations and licences are set out herewith:—

1. Registrations:

(a) Milk Distributors	.....	23
(b) Dairy premises (other than dairy farms)	.....	17

2. Licences granted under:

(a) The Milk (Special Designation) Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949.		
(i) Dealers	.....	18
(ii) Supplementary	.....	5
(iii) Pasteuriser's	.....	1
(b) The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949.		
(i) Dealers	.....	13
(ii) Supplementary	.....	4

3. Administration:

Number of inspections to milk distributors and dairy premises and Pasteurising Plant147

4. Sampling:

142 Samples (an increase of 31 over 1952) of milk were taken during the year with the following results:—

Designation.	No. of samples.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Pasteurised	97	97	—
Tuberculin Tested	5	4	1 (for meth. blue)
Ungraded	32	32	—
Accredited	8	8	—
TOTALS	142	141	1

48 Samples were also submitted for biological examination (Guinea Pig Test) for evidence of tuberculosis and brucellosis (undulant fever) with the following results:—

Number of samples examined	Number negative for tubercle bacilli	Number positive for tubercle bacilli	Number negative for brucella abortus	Number positive for brucella abortus
48	48	—	47	1

The producer and Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture were informed of the isolation of Brucella Abortus in the sample referred to, and appropriate action taken.

Again, no action was found necessary under Section 20, Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 in regard to tuberculosis. Another important step towards the eradication of bovine tuberculosis in the dairy herds in the district was the confirmation by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, of the New Forest (Confirmation of Byelaws) (No. 2) Order 1953, made by the Verderers of the New Forest. The Order came into operation on the 1st September. It forbids the depasturing on the open Forest of any bovine animal (other than one comprised in an attested or supervised herd) unless any animal in the herd to which it belongs first brought on to the holding where the herd is kept after the said date, was brought direct from (i) an attested herd (ii) a sale of attested herds, or (iii) a sale held within the Forest under the supervision of the Verderers.

The other principal provision of the Byelaw forbids the depasturing on the open Forest after the 31st December, 1953 of any bovine animal unless at the last previous tuberculin test of the herd to which it belongs made after the date of the

Order came into operation, every animal then in that herd passed the test or, if found to be a reactor, was immediately isolated and removed.

During the year 4,672 cattle were tested, of which 278 (or 6%) were found to be reactors, an incidence which appears to be relatively low as compared with the average incidence for the whole country. Five cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis in children of school age notified during the year were believed to be of bovine infection. The milk supplies were investigated and samples taken from the two herds involved, with negative results.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

71 complaints of nuisances were received and 1,438 inspections and visits made in connection therewith. The following had been abated at the end of the year:—

House defects	...	...	...	...	...	53
Defective Sanitary Fittings	...	...	...	...	...	5
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	103
Insanitary accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ditches and watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	3
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	6
						179

Tarmacadam Plant—Emission of Dust:

The plant was satisfactorily maintained and no complaints were received.

Smoke Abatement:

121 Smoke observations were made of industrial undertakings. There were no emissions in which statutory action was deemed necessary. The wood waste plant referred to in my previous report has been continuously under review. Induced draught apparatus was installed, but with little improvement. Further discussions with the Management were taking place at the end of the year in regard to further modifications being carried out to secure good combustion conditions and freedom from smoke emission.

Petroleum Refinery—Fawley:

The close liaison with Doctor Mahler, the Ministry's Inspector, has been maintained and observations submitted to him periodically. He, in turn, has kept me fully conversant with the Refinery processes and of the means employed for preventing smell emissions. I am satisfied that all that can be done is being done in preventing smell emission, and minimising atmospheric pollution generally.

FACTORIES.

Premises	Number in Register	Number of:		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	139	171	12	—
Factories without mechanical power	27	7	—	—
TOTALS ...	166	178	12	—

Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars	Number of Defects				Defects entailing Prosecution
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	27	25	—	3	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Lack of wholesome water supply	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences	7	7	—	—	—
TOTALS	40	38	—	3	—

17 Outworkers were employed in the district during the year.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951:

There were no business undertakings in the district coming within the provisions of the Act.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948-51.

(a) Section 47.

No statutory action was taken. After much patient handling, an old lady aged 79 living alone and in insanitary conditions and in need of care and attention was eventually persuaded to live with her son. In a letter from the son, received three months later, it appeared she had settled down and was quite well and happy.

(b) Section 50.

One burial was carried out during the year under this Section.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Nature of Inspection.	Number made
Milk and Dairies ...	147
Water Supply ...	214
Cesspool Cleansing ...	71
Public Conveniences ...	56
Nuisances ...	1,438
Infectious Diseases ...	247
Rooms Disinfected ...	28
Housing ...	639
Food and Drugs ...	336
Ice Cream Premises ...	255
Inspection of Food ...	103
Factories ...	221
Refuse Collection and Disposal ...	151
Verminous Premises ...	22
Rooms Disinfested ...	17
National Assistance Act ...	13
Moveable Dwellings and Camp Sites ...	249
Smoke Abatement ...	124
Smell and Noise Observations ...	126
Schools ...	10
Swimming Pools ...	10
Rodent Control ...	1,717
Meetings and Interviews ...	247
Sanitary Survey ...	238
Miscellaneous ...	835

Samples:

Water ...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Milk ...	...	...	...	...	...	142
Ice Cream ...	...	...	...	...	...	239
Ice Lollies ...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Swimming Bath Water ...	...	...	...	...	...	24
River and Sea Water ...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Milk Bottle Rinse ...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sewage Effluent ...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Specimens:

In connection with the investigation of infectious diseases ...	...	...	...	326
			TOTAL	<u>8,419</u>

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK & IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT.

(a) Notices:

Number of complaints received	...	...	...	357
Number of complaints dealt with	...	...	...	262
Number of:—				
(i) Informal Notices served	...	...	...	184
(ii) Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	—

Legal Proceedings:

Proceedings were taken before the Magistrates for failure to comply with an "Abatement Notice" served in October, 1952, under Section 93, Public Health Act 1936. A "Nuisance Order" was made and complied with.

(b) Sanitary work:

Premises disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	16
Verminous premises disinfested	...	...	5
Ditches and watercourses cleansed	...	...	11
Insanitary accumulations removed	...	...	6
Choked drains cleared and cleansed	...	...	58
Drains repaired	...	...	32
Water closets repaired	...	...	16
Infestations of insect pests eradicated	...	...	6
Keeping of animals	...	...	3
Defective cesspits dealt with	...	...	21
Miscellaneous	...	...	15

(c) Sanitary Improvements:

Connections to Main Sewers (other than Council and new houses)	...	...	...	...	132
Conversions to water closets	...	...	...	...	11
New drains laid	...	...	...	...	16
Cesspit and Septic tank systems installed	...	...	...	...	10
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	9
Properties redrained and connected to sewers	...	...	...	...	9
Washing facilities provided	...	...	...	...	3

(d) General Repairs:

Roofs	...	...	...	...	...	38
Chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	17
Eaves Gutters and Downpipes	...	...	...	...	...	9
Walls	...	...	...	...	...	26
Windows and doors	...	...	...	...	...	34
Walls and ceilings repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	28
Staircases	...	...	...	...	...	8
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	16
Fire grates and kitchen ranges	...	...	...	...	...	14
Yard pavings	...	...	...	...	...	8

DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

THE PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Cases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year:—

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	79	3	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	2	2	—
Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	2	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—
Erysipelas	5	1	—
Whooping Cough	180	3	1
Measles	1213	8	—
Dysentery	7	1	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	18	—	—
Pneumonia	20	5	23
Food Poisoning	4	—	—
TOTALS	1533	26	24

Comparative Rates with England and Wales:—

Disease	Number Notified	Rate per 1,000 population	
		New Forest R.D.C.	England and Wales
Scarlet Fever	79	1.73	1.39
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	2	0.04	0.07
Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	2	0.04	0.04
Erysipelas	5	0.10	0.14
Whooping Cough	180	4.17	3.58
Measles	1213	26.67	12.30
Dysentery	7	0.15	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	0.02	0.03
Puerperal Pyrexia	18	22.18	18.25*
Pneumonia	20	0.46	0.84
Food Poisoning	4	0.08	0.24
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	0.01

* Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

The year was notable for an increase in the incidence of measles and scarlet fever. Although this was a "Measles" year, the incidence was considerably higher than at any time since the disease was made notifiable in 1940, and also considerably higher than that for England and Wales. Details of incidence are set out under the appropriate headings. The considerable number of cases of Scarlet Fever occurred mainly as a result of the continuation of the 1952 outbreak into 1953. The number of cases of Whooping Cough were again high and there was one death from this cause. Other than Puerperal Pyrexia, the general incidence of other notifiable diseases was low.

CANCER.

The number of deaths attributed to Cancer during the year was 90, an increase of 25 compared with previous year. Of the 90, 14 were from Lung Cancer—the same as the previous year. The death rate for the year is 1.97 per 1,000 of the population, as against 1.44 in 1952.

For comparison, the numbers of deaths and rates per 1,000 of the population in the district in the past five years are as follows:—

Year			Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 population
1949	...	...	81	1.95
1950	...	...	96	2.16
1951	...	...	113	2.50
1952	...	...	65	1.44
1953	...	...	90	1.97

DIPHTHERIA.

(a) **Notification:**—

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, nor were any deaths registered as due to this cause. No confirmed cases of Diphtheria have been notified in the district since 1947.

(b) **Immunisation:**—

Statistical Details:

Number of children at 31st December 1953 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1939):—

Age at 31.12.53, i.e. born in year :—	Under 1 1953	1-4 1952- 1949	5-9 1948- 1944	10-14 1943- 1939	Total Under 15
Last complete course of injections (whether Primary or Booster)					
(A) 1949-1953	50	1,734	2,345	2,167	6,296
(B) 1948 or earlier ...	—	—	1,198	1,134	2,332

Booster Injections:—

Treatments given at Surgeries and Child Welfare Clinics

245

Treatments given at Clinics held at Schools

443

688

Primary Injections:

Treatments given during 1953	488
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Treatments completed under 1 year of age:

Treatments given during 1953	254
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There was a decrease in the number of primary treatments of children under one year of age and of children in all age groups by 42 and 45 respectively.

In regard to achieving a target of immunising 75% of children under 1 year of age, I am unable to assess the percentage for this year as the information as to the child population supplied by the Registrar General was discontinued during the year. Suffice it to say, however, that there has been a decline and the target is far from being reached, and the responsibility for this must be with the parents. To ensure continuing success, not less than 75% of babies should be immunised before their first birthday, but it will be seen that for every baby protected, two are left unprotected, and as previously mentioned, the responsibility for this lies squarely with the parents.

All parents of young children must realise that they are the only people who can ensure the continued success of the anti-diphtheria campaign and that no child should reach the age of 1 year without being protected.

The level of booster injections can be considered satisfactory. I am again indebted to Doctor Oona Walker for undertaking the booster clinics at Schools and also to the Head Teachers for their continued help and support, which contributes largely to the success of these clinics.

FOOD POISONING.

Two incidents involved the notification of four cases of food poisoning during the year. All cases suffered from food poisoning symptoms, but owing to delay in seeking medical attention, and therefore notification, it was impossible to ascertain the source of infection. There were no cases in the previous year.

POLIOMYELITIS.

Four cases of Poliomyelitis were notified—two paralytic and two non-paralytic. Three cases occurred in August and one in October. The cases were scattered and no common or single source of infection was indicated. Epidemiological measures were enforced and there was no spread of the infection. All cases recovered. Of the two paralytic cases, one—a child aged eighteen months—was left with a very slight residual paralysis of the right leg; the other—a young girl of seventeen—with slight residual paralysis of the left arm. The

incidence of paralytic and non-paralytic poliomyelitis in the district was respectively below and on a par with the incidence for England and Wales.

DYSENTERY.

Seven cases of Bacillary Dysentery were notified. Laboratory examination confirmed that four were of the *Shigella sonnei* species and three *Shigella flexneri*. Six of the cases occurred in a Mental Hospital, involving four members of the Staff and two patients. The remaining case was a child 5½ years old. There were 74 cases notified during 1952.

PNEUMONIA.

Twenty cases of pneumonia were notified (17 Acute Primary and 3 Influenza). There were 17 cases of Acute Primary in 1952. Nineteen cases occurred in the months of January, February, March and April, and one in December.

Deaths registered during 1953 due to all forms totalled 23, an increase of 15 compared with 1952.

MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS.

One case was notified in December—a child aged two years. The case was nursed at home.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Twenty cases were notified, an increase of 8 over the previous year. The rate per 1,000 live and still births was higher than that for England and Wales (22.18 and 18.23 respectively), whereas last year it was lower 15.2 and 17.87 respectively).

WHOOPING COUGH.

A total of 180 cases were notified—13 less than for 1952. The incidence of Whooping Cough in the district since 1940 (i.e. when the disease was made notifiable) is as follows:—

1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
60	135	135	144	70	139	143	30	89	71	313	230	193	180

Comparative rates per 1,000 of the population for the previous ten years with England and Wales are as follows:—

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
New Forest R.D.C.	3.49	1.80	3.70	3.65	0.74	2.16	1.71	7.08	5.12	4.28	4.17
England and Wales	0.03	0.03	1.64	2.28	2.22	3.42	2.39	3.60	3.87	2.61	3.58

Whooping Cough, one of the principal epidemic diseases, has been the subject of extensive research by the Medical Research Council, to determine the effective use of various anti-Whooping Cough vaccines. The practice of using a combined prophylactic for immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough in the district by Medical Practitioners is increasing. It might well be that as a result of the beforementioned research, a universal scheme of immunisation in combination with Diphtheria will be adopted in the very near future.

There was one death—a baby girl aged 7 months. The child died in the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Southampton, the cause of death being (a) Whooping Cough and (b) Bronchopneumonia.

MEASLES.

1,213 cases of Measles were notified. The expected "biennial" epidemic began in January. 1,201 cases were notified in the first half of the year—789 in January and February, 269 in March and April, and 53 in May. At the end of the second week in May the epidemic came to an abrupt end and only 12 further cases were notified, 3 in November and 9 in December. The geographical distribution of the cases can be seen in the table "Distribution of Infectious Diseases". There were no deaths from this cause.

For comparative purposes, the following table gives the number of cases notified and incidence rate in the preceding five years:—

Year	Population	Number of cases notified	Rate per 1,000 population	
			New Forest R.D.C.	England and Wales
1948 ...	41,200	235	5.70	9.34
1949 ...	41,480	614	14.80	8.95
1950 ...	44,200	109	2.46	8.39
1951 ...	44,900	612	13.63	14.07
1952 ...	45,090	190	4.21	8.86
1953 ...	45,480	1213	26.67	12.36

SCARLET FEVER.

A total of 79 cases were notified. There were 28 during 1952.

The outbreak which commenced in Sway in October 1952 continued into 1953—a further 31 cases being notified from January to July 26th, making a total of 48 cases.

A second outbreak occurred at a Mental Hospital in January. 20 cases were notified between 24th January and 23rd February, when the outbreak subsided.

The remaining 28 cases were notified from 8 Parishes not contiguous to each other.

In the Sway outbreak, six strains of the haemolytic streptococcus were involved. The incidence rate per 1,000 of the population was a little higher than that for England and Wales.

TUBERCULOSIS.

81 cases were added to the Register—60 primary notifications and 21 cases moving into the district as transfers from other areas. Of the 60 primary notifications, 50 were pulmonary and 10 non-pulmonary.

6 deaths were attributable to tuberculosis — the same number as 1952.

Home Conditions:—

10 visits were made to families having a case(s) of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in relation to home conditions. After consultation with the Area Chest Physician as to the clinical condition of the cases, appropriate recommendations were made to the Council, resulting in four families being rehoused in Council houses during the year.

The following table shows the number of cases on the Register at the end of the year:—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number on Register 31st December, 1953	195	120	38	33	386
Number on Register 31st December, 1952	153	94	31	27	305

During the year 68 cases were admitted to Hospital, 31 of these cases being notified during the year.

New Cases and Mortality during 1953:—

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	2	3	3	1	—	—	—	—
15	9	6	1	—	—	—	—	—
25	8	5	—	1	—	—	—	—
35	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
55	5	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	2	—	2	—	2	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	29	21	7	3	4	2	—	—

Comparability Table of the Number and Rate per 1,000 of the Population of New Cases and Deaths from Tuberculosis for the years 1936-1953:—

Year	Population	New Cases		Deaths	New Cases Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Deaths Rate per 1,000 Pop.
		Pulm.	Non-Pulm.			
1936	35,050	18	10	17	0.8	0.5
1937	36,130	21	2	14	0.6	0.4
1938	36,660	13	5	24	0.5	0.6
1939	37,780	17	1	14	0.4	0.3
1940	38,100	27	3	17	0.8	0.4
1941	40,420	39	6	28	1.1	0.7
1942	40,010	24	7	19	0.8	0.5
1943	38,740	37	7	13	1.1	0.3
1944	38,720	18	9	42	0.7	1.1
1945	37,510	25	1	18	0.6	0.4
1946	39,130	25	5	14	0.7	0.3
1947	40,070	36	4	14	1.0	0.3
1948	41,200	30	6	13	0.8	0.3
1949	41,480	26	4	15	0.7	0.3
1950	44,200	34	13	12	1.1	0.3
1951	44,900	40	7	7	1.0	0.1
1952	45,090	22	2	6	0.5	0.1
1953	45,480	50	10	6	1.3	0.1

After Care in Tuberculosis:—

The Totton and District T.B. After Care Committee, formed last year, had its full year of active work in providing help for tuberculous patients over and above that available from statutory sources.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

G. HABGOOD,
Medical Officer of Health.

